

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Hirsch et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 1470
APPLICATION NO.: 10/718,883 GROUP NO.: 3694
FILING DATE: November 20, 2003 EXAMINER: Abdul Basit
TITLE: EMPLOYEE STOCK PLAN ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 11, 2008 in the above-identified application, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute, with traverse, the claims corresponding to the Group I invention, namely claims 1-19 and 24-42.

Applicants hereby traverse the Restriction/Election Requirement as follows. The Group I claims, namely claims 1-19 and 24-42, are directed to a system and method, respectively, for providing centralized employee stock plan administration that includes displaying an administrator's dashboard interface screen for providing metrics regarding an employee stock plan.

Applicants respectfully disagree that the Group II claims define a separate invention from the Group I claims. Rather, the Group II claims, namely claims 20 and 43, also are directed to a system and method, respectively, for providing centralized employee stock plan administration that includes displaying an administrator's dashboard interface screen for providing metrics regarding an employee stock plan. Specifically, claim 20 is a combination of claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 of Group I. Likewise, claim 43 is a combination of claims 24, 25, 27, 29 and 31 of Group I. Thus, Applicants believe that a search for prior art with respect to the Group II claims

would not be additionally burdensome, because the same claimed features are being searched with respect to the Group I claims.

Likewise, Applicants also assert that a search for prior art with respect to the Group III-V claims would not be additionally burdensome, because the same features are being searched with respect to the Group I claims. Specifically, the Groups III-V claims are directed to features corresponding to certain dependent claims of Group I. For example, claim 21 of Group III recites, in independent form, the same features as recited in dependent claims 9 and 10 of Group I. Since the Examiner must search for prior art with respect to the features of the dependent claims of Group I, the same prior art would necessarily apply to the independent claims of the Group III-IV claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that all of claims 1-46 be examined together.

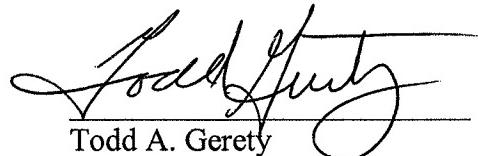
For the Examiner's convenience, for each claim identified in the Group II-V inventions, the following table provides the corresponding combination of Group I claims that recite the same features.

Group	Claim No.	Corresponding Group I Claims
II	claim 20	claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8
II	claim 43	claims 24, 25, 27, 29 and 31
III	claim 21	claims 9 and 10
III	claim 44	claims 32 and 33
IV	claim 22	claims 11, 14 and 16
IV	claim 45	claims 34, 37 and 39
V	claim 23	claims 18 and 19 ¹
V	claim 46	claims 41 and 42

¹ Claims 23 and 19 both recite a "report queue interface screen" providing similar functionality.

If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' representative would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number below.

In the event any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 16-2500.



Date: March 11, 2008

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